

And here I cannot help reflecting on the amazing conduct of our ministry, in not attacking this colony, which *at present* is so far from being formidable. It ought certainly to have been the very first object of our attempts after Canada was in our possession. A great force at an immense expence, (much superior to what would have been required for the conquest of Louisiana) is gone against Martinico, which is not of such consequence to us. General Amherst might have conveyed his whole army down the Ohio and Mississippi, with as much ease as he proceeded through a much worse and more impenetrable country, by the way of Crown Point by water to Montreal. It would have been a most remarkable advantage, to have been able to proceed by water for upwards of three thousand miles on such an expedition; and the country is so very fruitful, and abounds so with deer and tame cattle, that an army might be maintained in it perhaps easier than in any other country in the world. But there are many other reasons which must be evident to the reader without reciting, that prove very clearly how ill our ministry judged in preferring an expedition against Martinico, to one against New Orleans.

The first article of the several memorials between the courts of Great-Britain and France, which I inserted above, also ceded to France a share of the Newfoundland fishery, in consideration of Dunkirk's being demolished, according to the treaty of Utrecht.

If the same ministry who made that peace and also that of Aix, had again proposed such an article as this, I should not have been surprized; but that a man of our Patriot Minister's abilities, should give up the interest of the nation in a point of such immense importance, I own is something odd, or at least it appears so at first sight, though this paradox as well as many others, might perhaps be easily reconciled with common sense. The vast consequence of this fishery should undoubtedly have prevented our ministry, from ceding any port to France in these parts. We offered them the island of St. Peter; this spot which has a convenient port, is very finely situated for the cod fishery, as well as any point of Newfoundland, and they might undoubtedly make it of as much consequence to them for fishing as ever Cape Breton was, but this island is not the only ces-

masters of them already, only with a handful of men, how will they ever be rooted out of them, when they come to be well secured and fortified in them, the first thing they will do without doubt; and to encrease and multiply as they must do in such fruitful countries? It will then be in vain to say, that Britain ought to vindicate its rights to those countries; or that Spain is endangered by them. They must both submit to the fate they have brought upon themselves, if they suffer the French thus to over-run North-America, and to secure and fortify themselves in it. We never see them part with a place they once get sure footing in; nor give up or neglect such advantages as those here represented, the Spanish treasures in America." See *The Contest in America*, written by Dr. Mitchell; who perfectly understood the importance of these countries.